



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

19 JUL 1958

Mr. Richard Ware/  
The Ralm Foundation  
902 First National Bank Building  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Mr. Ware:

I understand that Professor Ferdinand A. Hermans, of Notre Dame University, has applied to you for support in connection with his project entitled "Studies in Constitutional Government."

I am acquainted in a general way with the proposal of Professor Hermans, and several officers of the Agency have studied the prospectus and discussed the subject with him. We believe that he has developed his plans on a sound and practical basis and that the data he intends to collect and analyse would add considerably to our knowledge of foreign political movements. The studies to be published should heighten an awareness in several key countries of the Free World of ways in which the Communists and other extremist parties exploit the democratic process and obstruct effective government. They should contribute to a public opinion favoring constitutional reform to achieve greater political stability. The importance of such developments in all countries with which our national security is linked does not need to be emphasized.

Professor Hermans has impressed us as a capable scholar. His experience in research and writing is an assurance, we believe, that the grant which he is requesting will be intelligently applied to the objectives of his project. I am glad to have the opportunity to recommend his proposal, and I hope that it will be found to merit your support.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

STATING

Orig - Addressee

cc: ER

cc: SRS via DD/1 as basic

STATINTL

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7 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Draft Letter for DCI Signature,  
in Support of Research Proposal of Dr. Ferdinand  
Hermens, Notre Dame University

1. On 14 April 1958 Dr. Hiram Stout submitted to you a proposal of Dr. Ferdinand Hermens, Notre Dame University, for a Political Study Center. He pointed out that Dr. Hermens was about to request support from a private foundation, and suggested that you might wish to send a letter in support of this proposal. He felt that the matter was of particular interest, in that Dr. Hermens is a staunch proponent of proportional representation electoral systems, a subject in which you expressed strong interest in your speech to the Pennsylvania Law Review Dinner, some time ago.

2. During Dr. Stout's absence in Europe I have received word from Dr. Hermens that he has submitted his project to the Rehm Foundation, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. Hermens expressed the hope that you will see fit to lend it your personal endorsement.

3. With this in view, I am submitting a letter drafted by Dr. Stout for your signature. We have now staffed Dr. Hermens's proposal sufficiently to feel confident that it has the potential of making a significant contribution to political stability in a number of countries, especially in France, where recent developments make the question of electoral reform particularly urgent.

4. Dr. Stout, who will return on 12 July, has been continuing his study of this question, and would be glad to report to you orally or in writing, if you so desire.

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Chief, SRS/DDI

6 attachments